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Horse Stealing.

[illegible] BONINI, now confined in Greensburgh Jail for stealing Horses, says, he is one of a gang of Thieves who had a meeting at the house of the Black Horse, in the Forks of Yough; who call themselves United Men, and the oath they take is similar to that of the United Irishmen—This rascally Democrat had in his pocket at the time he was taken, the following description of a Mare.

One dark sorrel Mare, 6 years old, 14 hands high, three white feet, a star in the forehead and snip nose; a wallet containing one shirt, pantaloons, 3 pair stockings, 3 pocket handkerchiefs, 3 yards linen, and 2 bags—This stolen from the rebel says he bought the Mare in Kentucky.

The owner or owners of the above described property, by applying to the subscribers living on Mount Pleasant township, Westmoreland county, proving the property, and paying the reasonable charges we have been at, may have her again.

HUGH BLACK.
THOMAS NEELEY,

February 22, 1799.

William Larwill,

RETURNS his sincere thanks to his friends for the generous assistance afforded him when he was put in confinement—his stores having been broke open by night, and his property feloniously taken away by a certain William Gazzam, who advertises he is authorized to receive from me, but it is unfortunate for the said Gazzam, he can produce no account against one Larwill, who is disposed to pay his debts, has a right to receive, as will be seen by the following note that has been obligingly given him.

Pittsburgh, February 14, 1799.

Pittsburgh, February 9, 1799.

SIR,

HAVING been of your council from the first, and acquainted with every transaction relative to the sale to William Gazzam in his advertisement in the Pittsburgh Gazette, calls an *assignment* of your property, we are of opinion that it was not an assignment, but an *agreement* to assign and transfer no property, until actual delivery, and that as to what was delivered the property remained and became vested in you, as the agreement was waived by Gazzam on recurring to his bond, in consideration of withdrawing which the agreement was made; and that now you have a right to retain, or regain, as the case may be, the whole your debts as if no such agreement had ever taken place.

H. H. BRACKENRIDGE.
JAMES MONTGOMERY.
SAM. S. MAHON.

NOTICE.

All who hold rights or credits against the estate of David H. Kerr, late of the town of M'Kee's Port, deceased, to bring such their demands legally prepared according to law, and also all such who stand indebted to the said estate, to come immediately forward, settle their accounts, and make payment, as certain circumstances render it highly necessary that a final settlement of the said estate shall be had on the first Monday of March next. No person, therefore, expect any other publication for that purpose, from

their humble servant.

JOHN SHERER, Administrator.

Clay's Hill, Versailles township, Allegheny county, February 18, 1799.

I also offer for sale, one half Lot of Ground situate in the said Town, which lot is nearly adjoining the first of value in that place, on which there is a complete ship, well finished, with every tool or useful necessary to the carrying on a ship factory, in good order, a quantity of timber generally assorted, well cut and finished. A pair of Oxen six years old, which are, of their age, large, lively, and well broke to the yoke, on low terms for cash or approved of credit.

JOHN SHERER.

Ten Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, living at Rush Hill, in Westmoreland county, a few days before Christmas, a Mulatto Man named

HARRY,

about thirty, well made young fellow. His clothing in general was remarkably genteel, but what was most distinguishable, his shirts were largely ruffled at hands and bosom, and wore his hair behind and fashionably craped and combed at the ears. He has lately been seen in the town of Washington and other parts of the county, inviting several gentlemen to purchase him, alledging that he would rather live in that country, where he might be more convenient to his relations. Whoever will apprehend and secure him into the jail of any county, wherein he may be taken, and give notice thereof by letter to John Scull, Editor of the Pittsburgh Gazette, shall receive the above reward. The person to whom he may be so delivered, is hereby authorized and requested, to pay this reward to the person so entitled, which shall be punctually complied at the time of removal.

I am further requested to make the confinement as close and severe as the nature of such confinement will possibly admit, not neglecting to have him well ironed, and that his substance may be strictly confined to that of criminal allowance.

JOHN IRWIN.

Rush Hill, Westmoreland county, January 22, 1799.

REPORT,

Of the SECRETARY of STATE, on the Transactions relating to the United States and France, since the last communications to Congress on that subject.

(Concluded from our last.)

2. THE second article declares that all commissions granted by the agents in the French colonies in America, to fit out vessels for cruisers, or for war and commerce, shall be void in thirty days after the publication of the decree in those colonies.

It has been supposed that by this regulation the agents may gather a fresh harvest of fees for new commissions; and that this would be its only effect. The agents however had before taken care of this; they had been accustomed to limit the duration of privateer's commissions; and if they continued to cruise after their expiration, such privateers should have been considered as destitute of commissions, and consequently if they made any captures, as pirates:—but the agents knew their interest better; they did not punish the piratical captors—they did not declare their capture void, and restore the property to the neutral owners—but, declaring such captors to have no title to the captured vessels and cargoes, took the whole to themselves. A remarkable instance occurred in the last year, in the case of the East-India ship *New Jersey*, belonging to Philadelphia, to redeem which, the owners have paid to GENERAL HEDOUVILLE, *Special Agent* of the *Executive Directory* in St. Domingo, upwards of two hundred thousand dollars in cash. Whether any and what portion of such prize money goes into the chest of the Republic, I am not informed.

3. The third article declares that all agents and other deputies in the *neutral possessions*, appointed to decide there on the validity of prizes taken by French cruisers, and who shall be suspected of having a direct or indirect interest in the cruisers, shall be immediately recalled.

It is remarkable that this article, apparently designed to correct the monstrous abuse of public officers sitting in judgment in their own causes, should be limited to such of the agents and their deputies as were appointed to reside in NEUTRAL *places*. I do not know that an instance of the kind exists. For although the French privateers and their prizes find asylums in the Swedish and Danish islands, yet the papers are carried thence to Gaudaloupe, and there the captured vessels receive their doom under the superintendance of another *special agent* of the *Executive Directory*, VICTOR HUGUES. And even the captured American vessels carried into the West-India ports of Spain and Holland, do not there receive sentence: these cases are decided by the agent or his deputies, or other French tribunals, established in the island of St. Domingo, frequently, if not generally, in the absence of the masters of the supercargoes. The French agents and judges find no difficulty in this mode of proceeding; *justice* being administered with more *facility* and *dispatch* when only *one* of the *parties* is present at the trial; especially when the agents or other judges are interested in the privateers; and this the present decree impliedly allows, the penalty of "recall" being applicable, as above suggested, to such agents only as reside in *neutral places*, if any such there be.

It is also remarkable, that this decree, which was to give the United States a proof of the justice of the French government (a government, Mr. Talleyrand says, "never listening to any thing but justice,") and of its desire of a reconciliation with the United States, should be limited to the *West Indies* when as *great*, if not as *numerous abuses* were practised by French agents and tribunals in Europe, and even in France itself, as in her remote possessions. This too many of our citizens well know. For captures and condemnations are not the less *abuses*, because made under the color of *municipal* laws and decrees which directly violate treaties, the law of nations, and the plainest principles of justice. At present I shall only mention, that in a report made by Major Mountflorence, chancellor of the American consulate at Paris, to General Pinckney, in December 1796, and which was laid before Congress in May 1796, he states, "That the tribunals of commerce in every port of France, take cognizance, in the first instance, of every matter relative to captures at sea;" and "these tribunals (he adds) are chiefly composed of merchants, and most of them are, directly or indirectly, more or less interested in the fitting out of privateers; and therefore are often concerned in the controversies they are to determine upon."

4. The fourth article requires the special agents of the Executive Directory at Cayenne, St. Domingo, and Gaudaloupe, studiously to take care, that the interests and property of vessels, belonging to neutrals and allies, be scrupulously respected.

We have too long witnessed the studious and scrupulous care of these gentlemen respecting the property of neutrals and allies, and experienced its ruinous consequences; and as the same laws which authorized that "care" remain in force, and with a fresh injunction of a strict conformity to them, we can expect only a continuance of the same abuses.

5. The fifth article enjoins the special agents of the Executive Directory, consuls and all others invested with powers for that purpose, to cause to be arrested and punished all who shall contravene the provisions of the present decree.—Unfortunately these special agents, consuls, and their deputies, are themselves the *aggressors*, and justify their proceedings under the laws of the republic and the decrees of the Executive Directory.

This analysis of the present degree manifests its futility; and, with some remarks on its preamble, will demonstrate it to be a bold imposture; intended to mislead the citizens of the United States into a belief that the French government was going to put an end to the depredations of French cruisers on American commerce; while the means proposed are so gross as to be an insult on our understandings.

The preamble to the degree sets forth, "that information, *recently* received from the French colonies and the continent of America, leaves no room to doubt that French cruisers or such as call themselves French, have infringed the laws of the republic relative to cruising and prizes;" and "that foreigners and pirates have abused the latitude allowed at Cayenne and the West India islands, to vessels fitted out for cruising or for war or commerce, in order to cover with the French flag their extortions and the violation of the respect due to the law of nations, and to the persons and property of allies and neutrals." And Mr. Talleyrand, in one of his letters before noticed, dated the 2nd of July last, speaks of this information as having been "just received."

But what has been more notorious than French depredations on neutral, and especially on American commerce, in violation of treaties and the law of nations? These have been coeval with the existing war in Europe; but were multiplied under the loose decree of the executive directory passed the 2d of July, 1796, declaring that "the flag of the French republic will treat neutral vessels, either as to confiscation, to searches, or to capture, in the same manner as they *shall* suffer the English to treat them."

This decree committed the whole commerce of neutrals, in the first instance, to the rapacity of French privateers, and then to the discretion of their agents, consuls and tribunals. These had only to say, truly or falsely, that the English treated neutrals in any given way, and then they were to treat them in the same manner.—Accordingly we have seen Santhonax and Raimond, commissioners of the French government in St. Domingo in their adjudication of an American vessel, on the 10th of January, 1797, declare, "That the resolution (or decree) passed by the executive directory, on the 2d of July, 1796, prescribes to all the armed vessels of the republic, and the armed vessels belonging to individuals to treat neutral vessels in the same manner as they suffer the English to treat them;" and "that it is in consequence of the above resolution of the Executive Directory, and in consequence of the manner in which the English government in the Antilles *treats* neutral vessels, that the commission passed their resolution of the 7th of January, by which they declare all neutral vessels bound to or from English ports, to be legal prize." From these facts, and the tenor of the decree itself, we can form but one conclusion, *That it was framed in such indefinitive terms, on purpose to give scope for arbitrary constructions and consequently for unlimited oppression and vexation.*

But without waiting for this decree, the Commissioners of the French government at St. Domingo began their piracies on the commerce of the United States: and in February 1797, wrote to the Minister of Marine (and the extract of the letter appeared in the Official Journal of the Executive Directory of the 5th of June) "That having found no resource in finance, and knowing the unfriendly disposition of the Americans, and to avoid perishing in distress, they had armed for cruising; and that already 87 cruisers were at sea; and that for three months preceding, the administration had subsisted, and individuals been enriched, with the product of those prizes."—"That the decree of the 2d of July was not known by them until five months afterwards. But (say they) the shocking conduct of the Americans, and the *indirect* knowledge of the *intentions* of our government, made it our duty to order reprisals, even before we had received the official notice of the decree." "They felicitate themselves that American vessels were daily taken; and declare that they had learnt, by divers persons from the continent, that the Americans were perfidious, corrupt, the friends of England, and that therefore their vessels no longer entered the French ports, unless carried in by force."

After this recital, before the Council of Five Hundred, Pastoret makes the following remarkable reflections:

"On reading this letter, we should think that we had been dreaming; that we had been transported into a savage country, where men, still ignorant of the empire of morals and of laws, commit crimes without shame and without remorse, and applaud themselves for their robberies, as Paulus Æmilius or Cato would have praised themselves for an eminent service rendered to their country. Cruisers armed against a friendly nation! Reprisals, when it is we ourselves who attack! Reprisals against a nation that has not taken a single vessel of ours! Riches acquired by the confiscation of the ships of a people to whom we are united by treaties, and whom no declaration of war had separated from us!" "The whole discourse of the agents may be reduced to these few words: 'Having nothing wherewith to buy, I seize: I make myself amends for the property which I want, by the piracy which enriches me: and then I slander those whom I have pillaged.'—"This is robbery justified by selfishness and calumny." Yet Santhonax, one of these "robbers," and the chief of those Directorial agents, continued in office, and going a few months afterwards from Saint Domingo to France was received as a member into one of the Legislative Councils.

Pastoret also adverts to a letter from *Merlin*, then Minister of Justice, and NOW a member of the Executive Directory to Mr. Skipwith, Consul General of the United States, which also appeared in the Journal of the Directory; and quotes the following passage: "Let your government break the inconceivable treaty which it concluded on the 19th of November 1794 with our most implacable enemies; and immediately the French Republic will cease to apply in its own favour the regulations in that treaty which favour England to the injury of France; and I warrant you that we shall not see an appeal to those regulations, in any tribunal, to support *unjust pretensions*." "Have I (says Pastoret) read this rightly? *Unjust Pretensions?* Could it be possible that they should have been thus characterized by the Minister who is himself the agent and defender?"

After all, this "inconceivable British Treaty," was itself but a *pretext* to countenance the "unjust pretensions," as Merlin himself calls them used by the French government in its tribunals for the purpose of condemning American vessels. The details I have already given prove it. I beg leave to adduce other evidence. It is the testimony of Mr. Barlow, an American by birth but for several years past a citizen of France, a man of acknowledged discernment and talents devoted to the French Republic, and intimate with her leading men. Mr. Barlow has long resided at Paris, and cannot have mistaken the views of the French government, nor the motives of its conduct. Mr. Barlow's letter dated at Paris the first of March 1798, to his brother-in-law, Mr. Baldwin, has doomed the writer to infamy: yet when it describes the principles and conduct of the French republic, it merits attention. He says, "that act of submission to the British government, commonly called Jay's treaty, is usually considered, both by its friends and enemies, as the sole cause, or at least the great cause of the present hostile disposition of the French republic towards the *United States*. This opinion (says he) is erroneous." He then proceeds to an enumeration of a variety of matters which he says have influenced the conduct of France. But the most provoking and most unpardonable of all the offences of the United States against France, was, fortunately, not an act of the *government*, but an act of the *people*. The *freemen* of the United States, "the true Americans," dared to exercise their independent rights, and contrary to the wishes of the French government and the endeavors and practices of its Minister Adet, elected Mr. ADAMS to the office of *President*. Mr. Barlow's observations on this event further develope the character and the principles of that government. He says, "when the election of Mr. ADAMS was announced here, it produced the order of the 2d of March,* which was meant to be little short of a declaration of war;" "the government here was determined to *starve* you of your property, to a sufficient degree to bring you to your feelings: the only nerve in which it was presumed your sensibility lay, which was your pecuniary interest." And what was this "feeling" to produce? The answer is obvious—*Submission to the will of the French government.* The mystery of French politics is here unveiled. The United States must *submit*—Hence the non-reception of their Envoys, and their haughty treatment—Hence the insulting demands of tribute as a preliminary even to their reception; and hence the expulsion of two of them from France.

But to return to the Decree of the Executive Directory of the 2nd of July last.

I have already shewn that the mass of depredations on the commerce of the United States under the French flag, of which we so justly complain, are not those committed, as the Secretary in their preamble insinuate, by "foreigners and pirates" but by French armed vessels commissioned by the government or its agents, or whether commissioned or not, whose acts in capturing American vessels receive the sanction of French Consuls, of French Tribunals, and even the Special Agents of the Directory. I have shewn that the laws of France and the Directorial Decrees, are themselves the sources of the violations of treaties and the law of nations which have caused such immense losses to the citizens of the United States. And to the proofs already offered, that the information of these aggressions and abuses, particularly in the West Indies, and on the coast of America, was not, as the preamble suggests, but "recently received," I may add, that their "special agents" authorized those depredations and violations of the law of nations, by decrees affecting the laws of the Republic, or the acts of the Executive Directory for their basis—by decrees printed and published, and undoubtedly from time to time reported by those agents to the Directory itself. Further, these outrages on American commerce have for years past been the theme of every tongue, and filled columns in our newspapers; those newspapers which Mr. Barlow says, "the office of Foreign Affairs (at Paris) regularly receives." I will conclude this point with the testimony of Mr. Letombe late Consul General of the French Republic and still residing in Philadelphia. He has lately since, and repeatedly assured me, that he collected all those accounts of depredations and outrages committed by French privateers, and transmitted them to his government at Paris.

* It will be recollected that this is the Decree of the Executive Directory, ordering the capture and confiscation of American vessels not having a Role d'Equipage—that fruitful source of pretext to Frenchmen, and of ruin to American citizens, and which also declared all American seamen making a part of the crews of enemies ships, unless put on board by force, to be pirates, and directed them to be treated as such.